

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 03235 291621Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 NSC-05
TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-05 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
LAB-04 SIL-01 L-03 H-01 IGA-02 AGRE-00 INT-05
OES-07 FEA-01 /102 W
-----003877 300435Z /11

R 291555Z OCT 77
FM AMEBBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1490
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY NASSAU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 3235

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIN TD
SUBJECT: TRINIDAD'S DECISION TO IMPOSE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

REF: KINGSTON 6354

1. IN THE COURSE OF A LENGTHY, WIDE-RANGING SPEECH OCTOBER 26, PRIME MINISTER ERIC WILLIAMS POINTED OUT, ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS REPORTS OCTOBER 27, THAT JAMAICA AND GUYANA WERE HAMPERING T&T'S EXPORTS TO THEM THROUGH RESTRICTIVE TRADE PRACTICES. T&T'S FAVORABLE NON-OIL TRADE BALANCES OF 1972-74 WITH JAMAICA AND 1972-73 WITH GUYANA SUBSEQUENTLY HAD SHIFTED TO THE DEBIT SIDE. AS A RESULT, WILLIAMS STATED, THE GOTT INTENDED TO IMPOSE "A SYSTEM OF SELECTIVE CONTROLS ON IMPORTS INTO T&T. IT IS TIT FOR TAT". HE ADDED THAT IF GOTT GAVE ANY FURTHER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REGIONALLY, THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE A PROVISIO AGAINST COMPETITION WITH T&T PRODUCTS FROM COUNTRIES WHICH DID NOT RPT NOT OFFER FINANCIAL
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AID TO THE RECIPIENTS IN THEIR BP PROBLEMS.

2. "TRINIDAD GUARDIAN" OF OCTOBER 28 REPORTS THAT GOTT HAS DECIDED TO IMPOSE QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS ON CARICOM IMPORTS INTO T&T. A SIX-MEMBER COMMITTEE, HEADED BY CECIL WYKE, HAS BEEN NAMED AND ORDERED TO MAKE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS ALONG THESE LINES TO THE

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COM ERCE WITHIN FOURTEEN DAYS. THIS MOVE, WHICH IS SEEN AS AIMED AGAINST JAMAICA AND GUYANA, IS BEING TAKEN UNDER ARTICLE 29 OF THE CARICOM TREATY ANNEX. "GUARDIAN" ALSO FRONT PAGES STATISTICS (SOURCES NOT GIVEN) PURPORTING TO DOCUMENT THE UNFAVORABLE SHIFT IN T&T'S NON-OIL TRADE BALANCE WITH JAMAICA AND GUYANA. STATISTICAL TABLE BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT, GEORGETOWN AND KINGSTON.

3. COMMENT: TRINIDADIAN CONCERN OVER THE UNFAVORABLE NON-OIL TRADE BALANCES AND DISSATISFACTION WITH WHAT ARE SEEN AS RESTRICTIVE PRACTICES BY JAMAICA AND GUYANA IS NOT NEW. THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN PARTICULAR HAS BEEN VOCAL IN ITS COMPLAINTS OVER ALLEGED TRADE BARRIERS, AND THE FEELING IS WIDESPREAD HERE THAT TRINIDAD'S FINANCIAL AID TO THE TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD EARN A FAIR BREAK FOR LOCAL BUSINESSMEN IN THE EXPORT TRADE WITH THEM. HOWEVER, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW THE GOTT COULD DESIGN AND APPLY AN EFFECTIVE PROGRAM FOR RESTRICTING SELECTIVELY JAMAICAN AND GUYANESE IMPORTS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER ONCE THE POSSIBLE OUTLINES OF SUCH A PROGRAM ARE CLEARER.

FOX

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: IMPORT CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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